ABSTRACT

A support structure for an operational telecommunications network deploys a set of individual technologies and provides a set of services to customers. The support structure is divided into a set of domains each of which provides a particular management function for the network. These domains include a domain for managing customer handling functions, a domain for managing the network, a domain for managing the individual technologies deployed in the network, a domain for managing instances of the individual services provided by the network, a domain for managing billing operations, a domain for managing the services provided by the network when grouped together to form a portfolio, and a domain for managing jobs performed by the human workforce for the network. Each domain has its own set of databases and systems for performing the required management operations and also interfaces to some of the other domains. Each domain is implemented by one or more tightly integrated computers. The interfaces between the domains are primarily message passing interfaces.

Clearly, there is no teaching or suggestion of the use of an inference network in the sense contemplated by applicants and defined by the claim.

In view of the above, reconsideration of the rejection of the application under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is believed to be in error, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Zegeer

Jim Zegeer, Reg. No. 18,957
Attorney for Applicants

Attachments: Version with Markings to Show Changes
                         Made in Claims
                 Letter to the Official Draftsman

Suite 108
801 North Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone: 703-684-8333

Date: May 2, 2001

In the event this paper is deemed not timely filed, the applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 26-0090 along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

**Version with Markings to Show Changes
Made in Claims**

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1.   (Amended) In an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) management network, having the following functional areas: fault management, performance management, configuration management, security management and accounting management, the [improvement] method of operating said ATM management network comprising:

(a) using an inference engine fault manager including correlation of ATM switch failures and traps and automating recommend courses of corrective action, and

(b) using an inference engine for said performance management of said ATM management network.